

Transcription by Dr Douglas Austin.

(British Library Add 42837; ff 74-77: With permission of The British Library.)

This transcription includes PNG images of pages 142-148 - relevant to the Battle of Balaklava in 1854 - from the Crimean War Diary of General Sir Hugh Henry Rose (Queen's Commissioner at French Headquarters in the Crimea). There are 844 page images in total.

(The low-resolution images – scaled to match the original - were recovered from paper photocopies supplied by the British Library. They are included to exemplify some of the difficulties of reconstructing acceptable text.)

Wednesday 25th October

Cause of Cannonade Trochu came back at 11 o'clock last night. It is Supposed that the Russians were alarmed on having Artillery mounted in the French Battery of 600 Metres, & opened the Cannonade. Proof of Weakness. 300 men would, if sent out, be a better measure than General Cannonade.

Russian Attack of Balaclava An A.D.C. of General Bosquet came in haste (Gendarme) to say that the Russians were in large Force on this side of the Tchernaiia, threatening or rather, attacking, Balaclava. Canrobert rode there, first ordering down Espinasse & the 1st Division. Its Right resting on No blank Redoubt. Its Left on the Road to Balaclava near the Coll. General Morris was near, in rear of the Cavalry. The Turks were under arms & firing from their Battery/res. We joined Ld. Raglan 4 ; [?][?][?][?] [?] [?] before [?]. English Cavalry exposed in confused order; I could not make out their Formation or what Formation they wished to make.

Turks Run The Russian Cavalry pressed forward. The 93rd fired on them. The Turks between (*sic -beside?*) 93rd baled. We saw the Turks running in a long line in confusion from the Redoubt over the crest; soon afterwards Russian Cavalry were advancing on their Left; they advanced with their lead getting into the form of a Wedge; they came close to touching the British Cavalry, which had not appeared to advance; saw part of position (very great anxiety lest English Cavalry should turn); the Russian Cavalry retired. Exclamation of Trochu "Why did not other Regiments pursue?" Lord Raglan, sent Vico to Gen Canrobert to allow Espinasse to go down; this was agreed; sent order to him to go as far as 1st Redoubt; Lord Raglan asked Canrobert for permission for Chasseurs d'Afrique This was agreed ; they trotted down to Left of English; formed 2 lines of Regiment; soon afterward the Chasseurs d'Afrique brought their Right Shoulders up & went up the crest of the hill in front of a small Encampment. They formed 2 lines; the 1st Line charged; it appears, were driven back; they charged again and drove on the Russian Infantry & Artillery. French Chasseurs a pied (Infantry) went up the height & had, at one time, 4 guns. Canrobert sent me to tell Lord Raglan of the movement of 'his' Chasseurs d'Afrique; Somerset said that he had taken orders to Cardigan to charge; Hardinge said the same. Somerset said "They say down there that he has lost his head; that he regularly funks. " Lord Raglan, said "We must set the poor Turks right again, get the Redoubt back." Airey told Lord Raglan that he (Airey) meant to take the Redoubt back; "Here, I will write the Order. Give me a bit of paper." He said to Nolan "guns give him (Lucan) that." Nolan was much excited; "I'll lead them myself, I'll take & lead them on!" When they came back we saw Cavalry, (English) coming back in long dribbling lines, like after a hard run. Directly afterward

Trochu came up 24 and said “Sais tu, Rose! Votre Cavalerie a fait une faute impardonnable! Ils ont charge contre un feu amere art(illerie)!” Soon afterward we saw the ground covered with lumps, some larger than others; dead men & horses. The Russians were in the Rear in Line of Battle with Columns in Mass on their Flanks. T afterwards came to Tent; mass of cavalry on Left, a little hid by brushwood & resting its Left on the No. [blank] Battery which the Russians had taken; I saw before between others & No. [blank] Battery, on the Russian Left of Battery & 7 or 8 guns in No. [blank] Battery, 7 near Cavalry. Russians were also on the ‘Colinne pelee’. Canrobert went to Lord Raglan. There was Talk that Lucan had complained bitterly of the order which he had received to charge & of Nolan who, when he - started with him (Lucan) shewing impossibility of charging between two Batteries of Artillery & the whole Russian Army, replied “There’s the road; there’s the enemy! ” & galloped on; (the) 2nd (1st) shell struck him in the chest; he threw up his arm, & rode back, & fell off. Lord Lucan, then ordered a charge; they went past 8 or 12 guns. Russian Infantry ran away, other Infantry & guns opened a destructive fire on them, dreadfull (sic) shell, grape; they went came back only. Morris had a bad wound on his head. Hardinge said that Morris was quite unwell, he did not like to speak to him; Young Charteris was killed, lying on his back, arm extended, ball went through his cap & killed him; Lord Raglan, seemed agitated, took Airey aside and said “They say that all this happened on account of the order you sent by Nolan to retake the guns.” Calthorpe brought news of the decimation to Lord Raglan, afterward. Canrobert went down the hill to No. Redoubt; T;wretched Redoubt turned wrong way

Defective Position Sir Colin. Campbell came on with Sir George Cathcart who said to Canrobert that what he & other French Officers had said was quite true as to our having extended our position far too much across the plain of Balaclava; that we had only men enough for the Plateau & Balaclava; that our Line of Defence should reinforce the Mountain where Marines were, down to near Mamelons & protecting the back road up to the Plateau (which later Canrobert said). Canrobert entirely agreed & spoke in this sense very strongly to Lord Raglan.; He had previously asked me to come with him & had spoken in this sense to Lord Raglan & Steele . We spoke then to Sir Colin Campbell, who said “I knew it but what will you have an unfortunate man do? they take me by the Shoulders & put me into Balaclava & try to defend it without any means, with a lot of Turks who run at the first shot.”

Reinforce for Balaclava Canrobert begged me to tell Lord Raglan that he would send the Brigade of General Vinoy to reinforce Balaclava; its Right on the height above (Chacpol?) in command of the back road. Raglan said: “Will he not send a Battery to this Redoubt? Look, from it the Russians could fire into Balaclava.” I looked & told Canrobert who said he could not leave men in so exposed a position that they might abandon it; afterward agreed that the Turks should be left there for the night. Lord Raglan, went to the advanced Mamelon where Rifles were. He said that he would come back; delayed. Canrobert sent me to him (Raglan); Trochu kicked; (I) came home; heard Siege guns on ([?] - coast?) - 9 guns were in the Captured Redoubts. Airey shewed a Map of the Redoubts Numbered, & those which had been taken, before he sent Nolan off.

Wednesday 25th October

Case of
Lamsonade

T. came back at 11.45. Last night
I supposed that Ruff. claimed on
having little & mounted in front
of the station, & opened the
flammonade. Part of the Ruff.
300 then would, if sent out, be
better measure than General Lam-
-ade. H. & S. of Gen. H. H. H.

Refugee
Attack of
Hala deane

in front (H. H. H.) to say that
Ruff. in large force on this
side of Tichman, threatening
to within, attacking, Hala deane
& take them first ordering
Hala deane to go, "Hala deane"
Night working on all. Re-
-doubt left on Road to the
- Hala deane near (all. Gen
Hala deane, near in rear of
(Hala deane). Further under attack
& firing Hala deane from Hala deane
found L. Hala deane; first
Hala deane. Hala deane. Hala deane.
Hala deane. Hala deane. Hala deane.

25-1

Trunks
Run

in confused order; I could
not make out their formation
or what formation they were
& make. Ruff. (as I supposed for
Hala deane 92' lead in Hala deane. Ruff.
between 92' lead. Hala deane
running in long line in confusion
1st Hala deane over crest; was
attacked Ruff. (as I supposed on
their left); Hala deane with lead
Hala deane getting into form of a
Hala deane; Hala deane close to Hala deane
Hala deane (as Hala deane had not appeared
to Hala deane; Hala deane out of position
(Hala deane Hala deane Hala deane)
(Hala deane Hala deane); Hala deane (Hala deane)
Hala deane. Hala deane of Hala deane
Hala deane Hala deane Hala deane?
L. Hala deane Hala deane Hala deane
Hala deane Hala deane to go Hala deane;
Hala deane; Hala deane to Hala deane
go as far as Hala deane; L. Hala deane
Hala deane for permission for Hala deane
& Hala deane agreed; Hala deane Hala deane

left of English; formed 2 lines of
Reg; then afternoon 1st & 2nd Reg^s
brought Rth 1st up & went up out
of hole in front of our old camp-
formed 2 lines; 1 "line changed" 1st
officers were dismissed, changed
again close in, Infantry & Artillery.
French 1st & 2nd went up height &
had at one time, 4 guns. 1st sent me
to tell 1st R. of movement of his
troops. 3rd Infantry; Bonnet's 3rd he
had taken order to prolong to
Cherbourg; Heudouze same. 1st 3rd they
say discuss there that he has lost
his head; that he regularly finishes.
1st R. We must let the French explain
again, get the Redoubt back. Morning 1st
1st he must take the Redoubt
back; here I will write the Order
give me a list of papers to Polignac; give
give him that I Polignac ^{must} ^{must}
to send them myself. He takes

[illegible]

[illegible]

Defective
 Position.

What he & others Ist off^r had
 said was quite true as to our
 having entered our position
 for the much benefit plain of
 Milwaukee; that we had not
 been enough for the 1st battle, &
 Milwaukee; that our line of
 defense was very poor & uncertain
 when we were down to our
 Milwaukee, & protesting back
 back up to Milwaukee 1st battle
 1st said / 1st certainly agreed
 spoke in this sense very strongly
 to Lth; had previously
 asked me to come with him
 & spoke in this sense to Lth.
 1st letter. He spoke then to Lth.
 who said "I know it but could
 make you know in confidence
 when do they take me by the
 shoulder & put me into
 Milwaukee & my defense &
 without any means will a lot
 of people who were at the first

21. That I begged me to tell I that
 Reinforce he co' send him of her being it
 for Reinforce Reinforce; its right on
 British Reinforce Reinforce in camp 77
 fresh and R. Will be not send
 that to this Reinforce look from
 it the help. could give out. Help
 them. That's take I. who send
 I not have seen in so before a
 that they might change it
 position. Afterward agreed that
 That it be left there for the night.
 I. R. sent to Reinforce Reinforce
 when After I. R. co' come back.
 delayed I. R. sent me to him; That
 back; come home; Reinforce
 gave an call - 9 from in left. He
 thought. They should stop of
 Reinforce Reinforce, a theme wh'
 had been taken, before he sent
 them off



2/9 52

